



## OFFERINGS & REFLECTIONS

### Strengthened by Love

*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.* I Corinthians 13:4-8

I was born and raised right here in the State of South Carolina, and since we don't often receive much snow, snow has always fascinated me. The snowfall we had in January was exceptionally beautiful in my eyes as each tiny snowflake always reminds me of the presence of God. Every snowflake is different, beautiful with its own intricate pattern. One tiny snowflake seems so light and fragile easily melting in your hand. But when hundreds of snowflakes constantly fall, together they form heavy mounds of snow that only large snow plows can remove. Fragility and strength fused together in one miraculous creation.

As I looked at the snow piling up in my yard and in the woods around the parsonage, I thought about the ways in which this same kind of fragility and strength is fused together in the community of faith. Like each snowflake, each person we meet

is unique and beautiful. And like the snowflake, we need the company of others to survive. Indeed, we become stronger when we allow Jesus's love to bind us closer to God and one another. Fragility and strength fused together in one miraculous creation – the body of Christ – the church.

On February 14th, we will celebrate St. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. It is a uniquely combined day of celebrations – both rooted and grounded in love. It is my prayer that on that day, you will begin to feel in deeper ways the strength of God's great love for you.

I hope you will join me on February 14 at 6:30 PM for a time of worship focused on how God's love for us strengthens us to live boldly and with joy. I am convinced that as we open our hearts to receive God's love and join hands with one another in making disciples in love, we will experience new strength in our faith, renewed strength in our hopefulness and greater strength in our witness.

Strengthened by God's Love,  
 Pastor Becky



Worshiping in Love



Growing in Love



Serving in Love

## CHURCH COUNCIL FOCUSING ON ALIGNMENT OF MISSION & MINISTRIES

by Rick Field, Church Council Chair

Our church mission is to make Disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world; the Great Commission. At PUMC we do this by Worshiping in Love, Growing in Love, and Serving in love. Your council is embracing this mission and to pursue it more effectively, is engaged in planning retreats in addition to regular council meetings.

The Council will create many small groups for Christian fellowship and learning to

provide opportunities for us all to grow in our knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ beyond Sunday worship. We will use demographic data made available by South Carolina United Methodist Conference to better understand the needs in our community, allowing us to serve in a sharply focused way. Your Council intends to reach out with a renewed sense of mission to serve our community's rapidly evolving needs, but we can't do it alone! We

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Serving in Love: UM Men clean up a yard in need at the home of a shut-in.

## PUMC PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON

A few of the 2018 exciting projects that the Trustees are working on:

- Outdoor Life Center shelter
- PUMC Columbarium
- Purchasing an AED
- Hosting an American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED training



Our next meeting is Monday, February 12 at 7:00 PM. Come to the meeting or notify the Trustees of any issues by emailing [connie.martin@duke-energy.com](mailto:connie.martin@duke-energy.com) or call 803-984-8898.

## THE PHILLY YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

In January PYG welcomed speaker Bliss Steele and his retrievers to do a demonstration of the different stages in the life of a Christian. He displayed how developing a relationship with Jesus Christ can deeply impact our lives when we listen to the truths of His Word.

PYG will be serving World Vision to support 30 Hour Famine on February 9-10th during a lock-in with games, study, worship, and service. Everyone is asked to raise at least \$40 which feeds 1 child for 1 month. During the lock-in they will fast for 30 hours and see what it feels like to have to carry out their day without food. It is a time for them to build bonds with each other through this experience and connect with those they are serving. They will break fast by cooking a meal for not only themselves but for those within our community that are less fortunate.

Please support PYG members and keep them in your prayers. They frequently need to raise funds for their projects and we need to model the behavior we wish to instill in them as they grow in love and serve in love. To contribute, respond to a youth request or contact Jessica Inman at [Jessica.m.inman@gmail.com](mailto:Jessica.m.inman@gmail.com) or 910-833-0752.



*Serving in Love: During the recent extreme cold weather we collected and distributed warm winter coats*

## 3-D UNITE RETURNS

A new season of 3D is taking place on Wednesday nights and dinner has a new chef! Dinner is 5:00-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Kids under 10-yrs old eat free and donations for adult meals are welcomed. Don't forget the various children's and adult choirs. Contact Nic Gold at [nicolas@pumcfortmill.org](mailto:nicolas@pumcfortmill.org)



*Growing in love: We have a new chef and an all PUMC kitchen with delicious food*



*Growing In Love: PYG participated in a demonstration with Mr. Bliss and his dogs illustrating the importance of obedience to God.*

## MISSION & MINISTRIES ALIGNMENT

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will be seeking input from you to discover areas of need and interest within our congregation. We invite you to join in this renewed sense of purpose. In a nutshell, your Church Council is forward focused on our mission. I am truly excited about this. We all have to come together. Reaching out in love, we Worship, we Grow, and we Serve. I am asking all members to join in this renewed sense of purpose.

The Council is comprised of leaders from the Church's various committees and ministries.

**Family Lenten Flood Bucket Project** starts on February 11th. Instead of just “giving up” something for Lent, let’s give and grow! We pray every family will be able to grow spiritually and serve in love this Lenten season. We will provide a bucket, directions and scripture for a daily Lenten devotional and service project all in one! Our buckets will supplement UMCORE needs to help flood victims in 2018.

**Room In the Inn** has substantially grown this season. We continue to serve men every other Thursday December through March. We have increased from 8 to 12 men! Every Thursday it takes over 20 volunteers to provide transportation, food, showers, toiletries, set up, clean up, laundry and fellowship. Very cold weather, and seeming heartlessness displayed elsewhere, makes our impact even greater. If you have a heart for this ministry and would like to hear more about how you can serve the Lord by serving those in need, contact Jessica Inman at [Jessica.m.inman@gmail.com](mailto:Jessica.m.inman@gmail.com) or 910-833-0752



*The beds setup for Room in the Inn and a guest’s simple note expressing thanks during the extreme cold weather period.*

## NUTURE COMMITTEE

In February we will be contacting those folks who made stewardship commitments to join the nurture team. If you have a nurturing soul, please join us in wonderful ministries such as: befriending nursing home members, delivering communion, working with the FAN Team, preparing food and tending to our shut-ins. Please contact Eve Chapman at [evechapman@comporium.net](mailto:evechapman@comporium.net)

**The Prayer Shawl Ministry** - Saturday, February 17, 10 am at the home of Kay Mukomela, 381 Windell Drive, FM. RSVP to [rkmukomela@aol.com](mailto:rkmukomela@aol.com). New members wanted to help knit and pray over these shawls to be delivered to those in need of prayer and comfort. Beginners welcome! We can teach you!

**M+M Concert Series** - Sunday, March 18. 4pm with Kristen and Andy Gommer performing John Denver favorites. Dinner is served immediately following the performance.

**Children’s Ministry Leadership Team** - A newly formed group of dedicated teachers and parents with creative enthusiasm are making plans to steer and shape the PUMC Children’s Ministry for the future. Great events, programs, and ministries are coming your way! For opportunities to attend or serve, check your bulletins, newsletter and PUMC Children’s Ministries Facebook Page.

**Agape Class** The new Agape adult Sunday school class is beginning an excellent study on the book of Revelation. Sundays at 8:30 AM in room 109. Contact Pam Brenwald, [pambrenwald@gmail.com](mailto:pambrenwald@gmail.com) or (803) 493-0980.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Church Council approved total budgeted expenditures in 2018 for \$687,352. This is everything from apportionments, to salaries, missions, mortgages, organ maintenance, copy paper, Vacation Bible School, and so much more. Our church is more than just a building; these are our ministries. We hope to grow God’s Kingdom wisely using the generous contributions from our members.

Our next meeting is Thursday, February 15 at 7 PM in the church library. Any member is welcome to attend.

## FUN FOR ALL AT FIRST FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

The first Family Movie Night was fun for kids, parents and grandparents who gathered on January 26<sup>th</sup> to watch Cars 3 in the Fellowship Hall. The PUMC Children’s Ministry plans to host three more Family Movie Nights in 2018. This is a perfect time for your kids and grandkids to watch a great movie and make new friends. It’s an even greater opportunity for families to fellowship with other families!



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## UNITED METHODIST MEN

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women of PUMC are starting off the year with two congregational events.

**Senior Friends Valentine's Luncheon** February 13th at 11:30 AM: All aged 55 and up are welcome to come for a delicious lunch, wonderful entertainment and fellowship. Piano music provided by Jerry Burdick, and the musical program following lunch is Jim & Friends.

**Annual Shrove Pancake Dinner** February 13 from 5:30-7 PM: Pancakes and sausage for everyone, with pancake flipping for the kids. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the old Christian ritual of "shriving", where a person confesses their sins and receives absolution prior to Lent. Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods you will be giving up for Lent. In the old days, so that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the shriving Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

UMM has issued their annual calendar through December. There is more than one activity every month. Two events are scheduled for February:

**Men in the Mirror**, Saturday Feb 17, 7:00-8:00 AM, Led by Jim Price. The focus is on spiritual answers for concerns of Christian Men. A typical session runs one hour of topic discussion and a wrap-up with a biblical focus. The topic this month: **Heartbreak Hotel**

**Men's Retreat – Come to the Water**, February 16-18 Myrtle Beach. This event is sponsored by the South Carolina Conference, UMC. Carpool and lodgings are being arranged.



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### Staff

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